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Editor-in-Chief
Victor Miller

JULY 1990



COOLING OFF AT MISSION POOL — PHOTO BY AMY SNYDER



THE THINKER SHROUDED AS A PROTEST AGAINST ART CENSORSHIP
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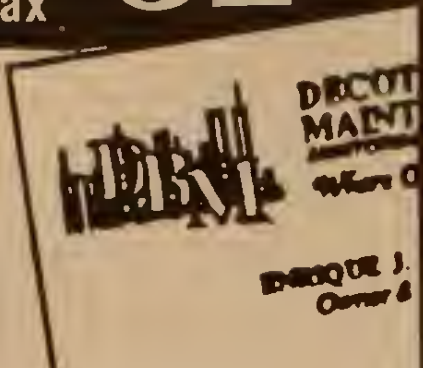
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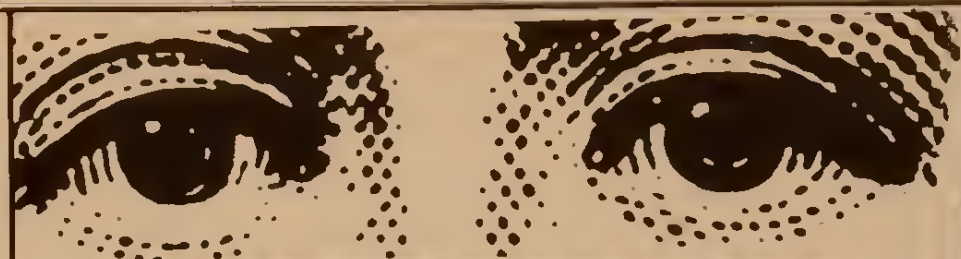
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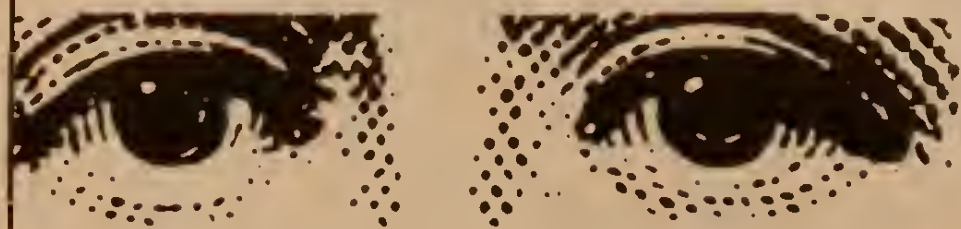
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MISSION ST. BUSINESSES GET ORGANIZED

- by Bernd Pick

On June 27, residents and merchants in the Mission formed a new group to create and promote an environment conducive to more honest business practices (and the peace and quiet of the neighborhood).

The group is now called "Central Mission Merchant's and Residents' Association". They've adopted a "Merchants' Code of Behavior" as guidance for merchants and residents so as to clarify the expectations of the residents about the businesses and, in turn, enable merchants to better address planning, enforcement and other governmental actions.

Interim leaders elected at the June meeting included: President Charlie Wilson (New Age Services), Vice-President Alonso Ortiz (El Herradero), Treasurer Mary Gould Moreno (Mission District Traffic School)

and Recording Secretary Norma Faini-Pick (resident).

Its formation comes as a consequence of what members call the "social climate" in the neighborhood. When unsavory and disruptive business practices are tolerated, all residents and merchants experience a decline in the quality of life.

Examples of what the CMMRA plans to combat include: trash thrown into the street, nightclubs violating their permit provisions and the peace and quiet of the neighborhood by refusing to soundproof their premises, coffee shops and delis placing tables on the sidewalk and... most obviously... liquor stores who count on non-enforcement of license conditions to create a nuisance or even a danger to the community.

The vast majority of merchants, property owners and residents in the Mission disapprove of unsavory businesses, slumlords and the like who



Photo by M.P.R. Howard

MERCHANT ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT CHARLIE WILSON

encourage asocial, criminal behavior like alcoholism, drug dealing, prostitution, and the vending of bus transfers and other merchandise of questionable origin.

The Association will meet monthly. They can be reached by writing to the Central Mission Merchants' and Residents' Association, 2141-C Mission Street, Suite 260, San Francisco 94110.

The CCMRA has adopted the following Merchant Code of Behavior

I the signer of this Code, pledge to conduct business in accordance with the following:

Inside

- *To keep the premises clean and sanitary.
- *To have a clear pricing policy.
- *To keep decorations and advertising displays clean and non-obstructive.
- *To not allow customers to be bothered by

panhandlers and peddlers of wares.

Outside

*To keep the outside of the business (windows, doors, facade and sidewalks) clean and sanitary.

*To dispose of garbage in the proper way.

*To not allow noise generated inside the store to spill out into the street or adjacent residences.

Advertising

*All advertising, both inside and outside, will be non-offensive.

*Advertising, such as sandwich signs, will not be obstructive to pedestrians.

*I will not allow street hawking, curbside service or similar practices.

Parking

*I will not allow or encourage illegal parking.

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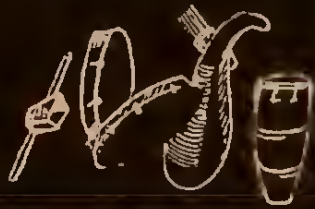
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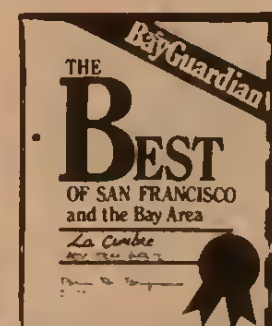
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ARMYST. PROJECTS, A WAR ZONE

- by Brian Doohan

THE MISSION'S MOST DEADLY AREA

For those who had seen it before, the Rev. Cecil Williams' march on the troubled Army-Folsom housing project was like a video replay of Glide's descent on the Valencia Gardens at 15th Street a couple of months ago.

The faces and buildings were different but the anti-crack messages were the same. The cries of "hope not dope" the same. The door to door appeals, the promises of a greater police presence and recovery programs, the speeches from optimistic governmental leaders... all the same.

Now project tenants and neighbors of the nearby streets hope that the aftermath will also be the same - a decline in the street violence and an increased community empowerment.

Such outcome would be a welcome surprise to Sgt. Dudo of the Mission Police Station's Narcotics Task Force. "It's still out of control," he remarked in response to questions whether the Glide visit had caused any improvement. "There's the same drug trafficking, lots of robberies and drug related murders. It's definitely getting worse all over the Mission."

"People may think that they've done things in Valencia Gardens, but that's still bad too," he added, referring to the earlier Glide action. "The only difference is that there haven't been any shootings down there... not yet."

Shootings and drugs and other great and petty crimes are just another hazard around the projects. In one of the more notorious developments, street gangs hit upon a novel method of enrichment... pouring oil over the adjacent streets at night so as to cause auto accidents, following which, swarms of gangsters would beat and rob the victims. But although heavily publicized, police believe the actual number of incidents numbered less than half a dozen.

"They probably found a barrel of



ARMY ST. PROJECTS — PHOTO BY M.P.R. HOWARD

oil," said one police source, "and when it was gone the incidents just dried up."

Even so, the oil racket was only the latest fuel to be poured on a controversy which has the potential of inciting vigilante action. "It's totally unsafe for women anywhere around the projects," said one angry neighbor. "The police should just be allowed to go in and shoot all of those kids."

Even the more responsible community leaders were getting fed up. The crime was causing some employees of San Francisco General Hospital to quit their jobs, adding to the problems of that facility according to one spokesperson. And Lieutenant Harper of Mission Police Station admits "the problem was escalating".

"It was an open air drug market," complained Mark Barmore, a neighbor of the project. "When there were burglaries and cars were vandalised, suspects would run straight into the projects."

"It was out of control," said Gloria Krzyzonowski, President of the Inner Mission Neighborhood Association,

which is composed of residents near Army-Folsom. "They've gone down. There are a lot of drugs there and it's also physically run down... graffiti, broken windows, empty units."

This last problem has been cited by both police and neighbors as a major cause of the continuing disturbances. Army-Folsom tenants contend that much of the crime is committed by outsiders who break into the empty apartments and use them as crack outlets. "It's not necessarily the residents' fault," agrees Harper.

According to Mark Barmore, between 20 and 40 of the project's approximately 200 units are vacant - posing a particular challenge for the San Francisco Housing Authority and its controversial director, David Gilmore.

At Valencia Gardens, where the Glide march was preceded by concentrated police attention as part of the C-POP patrol area and a rehabilitation drive aimed at both the physical structures and the people who inhabited them, the result was a drastic

drop in the number of vacant units. Everyone... police, neighbors and tenants... hopes a similar development will take place at Army-Folsom.

"The Housing Authority seems more interested," says Barmore, referring to the negative publicity and resulting Glide initiative. "HUD (the Federal agency overseeing public housing) has released more money to increase the police presence." This is also noted by Mission Station which additionally noted that a full time Housing Authority employee, Lenoris Walsh, has been assigned to the project to improve the maintenance.

"Mr. Walsh came and fixed my door that was loose, and fixed a faucet that was leaking," said Lauri Gi, a project tenant who has recently become involved in the formation of a tenant association. "Things have cleaned up since the march - the drug dealers are not around as much as they used to be."

The tenants have been busy, holding meetings both with their Inner Mission neighbors and with the Housing Authority. "Mr. Gilmore has been working with us," said Gi, referring to a meeting on June 25th.

For the Housing Authority, a higher profile at Army-Folsom may be a form of damage control. All over the city, public housing tenants are getting tired of decrepit conditions and broken promises. Western Addition tenants have been holding rallies to protest the awarding of maintenance contracts to out-of-San Francisco firms despite promises of employment to the residents. Tenants and neighbors continue to complain about the crime and drug problems in Sunnysdale and Hunters' Point.

And even in projects where improvements have occurred, the tenants have learned the value of organization. Laura Gi hopes that the Army-Folsom group will hook up with other public housing tenants within the next few months. "If we didn't have a



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tenant association to get on them..." she said, leaving the rest unstated.

Mark Barmore believes that the tenants were "inspired" by the Glide rally and the flurry of attention, but both the tenants and neighbors understand that the crime problem hasn't really been stopped, only moved around. Already, the concern is that police resources will be redeployed from Valencia Gardens to Army-Folsom and leave the former project vulnerable to a revival of the violence associated with the drug trade.

As former Mission Station (now District Commander) Michael Brush explained, the crack trade is like a balloon that you can squeeze - if you suppress it in one place it bulges out in another.

There are long range proposals in the works... some of them cosmetic like the eventual changing of the name of the Army-Folsom projects to the more wholesome-sounding Bernal Dwellings. But Lauri Gi suggests another approach.

"The kids in trouble here didn't come from Valencia Gardens... they don't like each other, but they're also not affiliated with the major gangs." Adding that she feels many of them could be persuaded to trade in the gangster life for jobs and programs, she said "we're working on programs for the kids, and the Housing Authority will try to get them."

But, according to Sgt. Dudo, the gang situation at Army-Folsom is at a critical stage. "Some of the arson and shootings there are due to people from Valencia Gardens trying to move in. There's a turf war under way."

He's less optimistic that the situation can be turned around before conditions reach those existing in the Hunter's Point and Sunnydale projects. "With all the police personnel we've lost it's no wonder that things are getting worse."

For San Francisco, now in the midst of its annual budget deliberations, it unfortunately seems that a chronic absence of funds will mean that the Mayor and Supervisors will have to choose between the short-term need for more police and maintenance to keep the City's public housing from sliding further into disrepair and longer-term, less spectacular measures (such as the Children's Budget proposed by the Coleman Advocates for Youth) that would keep at least some of the next generation of the Army-Folsom forgotten from enlisting in the wrong army.

"There must be 150 young children in the projects," says Barmore, "but you never see them."

In a few years, the hospitals, police and courts and their welfare caseworkers, jailers and undertakers assuredly will.

The Inner Mission Neighborhood Association is looking for a few concerned residents of the area east of Mission between 24th and Army Streets. In addition to the

neighborhood crime problem, they respond to the usual issues of dirt, development and community relations. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month at 2940 Folsom Street at 7 PM. For further information, call 647-1563.

ARMY-FOLSOM: MURDER CENTRAL

In 1990, San Franciscans are more likely to be murdered in the four block area bounded by Army, 25th Street, Harrison and South Van Ness than in any other four blocks in the City.

The district, Plot 462 in police jargon, has ranked among the ten most dangerous since 1986, but the three homicides through March equalled those of all of 1989 - when Plot 462 trailed only the central Tenderloin in killings.

The overall crime rate rose sharply in 1986 and 1987, then levelled off, but, while Army-Folsom still trails such notorious hot-spots such as the Tenderloin, South of Market, the Devil's Quadrangle around 16th and Mission and the adjacent Plot 454 centering on 24th and Mission in total crimes, it ranks near the top in most serious crimes against persons as well as in auto theft.

In other areas, crime totals are boosted by drunkenness, petty thefts and other misdemeanors. Apparently, at Army-Folsom, there's not much around to steal and few are crazy enough to wander around in anything less than a state of combat-readiness.

Most drug offenses are not included, because police statistics are based on reported complaints. However, police working in the area attribute many of the crimes (ranging from auto thefts to murders) to the crack trade.

The following are crime totals for Plot 462, as well as the adjacent 454, 455 (centering at Folsom and 24th), 461 (Army-Mission) and 463 (Army-Bryant). 1990 figures are projected (*) based on reports through the first quarter.

Plot	'86	'87	'88	'89	'90
454	858	863	1,026	947	932*
455	509	495	522	446	424*
461	401	288	329	329	336*
462	548	733	848	856	768*
463	295	492	394	356	284*

Crimes	'86	'87	'88	'89	'90
Homicides	3	2	2	3	12*
Robberies	38	41	39	49	56*
Assaults	73	80	89	86	112*
Auto Theft	29	39	37	46	72*

In addition to leading the nearly 300 police precincts in murder, Plot 462 at Army-Folsom was fourth in auto theft, fourteenth in assault and fifteenth in robberies.

MURDER RATE GOES UP

On Wednesday June 27 Gregory McFarland was shot and killed in the parking lot of Rubin's Market at 2997 Folsom. This is the fourth homicide in the Army street project vicinity in 1990, and brings the projected total for this year to sixteen. Police have arrested Mark

Balington for McFarland's murder. Balington was one of three suspects arrested for suspicion of murder in a January 6th killing on Army street. All three men were subsequently released, after the only witness to that crime was found shot to death.



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DON'T BURN THE FIRST AMENDMENT

ARTS GROUPS ORGANIZE AGAINST CENSORSHIP

by Amy Greenstadt

The month of June, 1990 may go down in history as "The Battle of the First Amendment". Not only did Congress vote on altering this amendment by banning desecration of the flag but, around the country this month, one incident after another focused our awareness on the issue of freedom of speech.

In Florida, police arrested the rap band Two Live Crew for performing "obscene" songs. In Cincinnati, a court decreed that The Contemporary Arts Center was to stand trial, also on obscenity charges, for showing an exhibit of controversial photographs by Robert Mapplethorpe. In Washington, the House of Representatives debated content restrictions and the possible abolition of the National Endowment for the Arts, a debate instigated by Senator Jesse Helms who attacked the NEA for funding "obscene" art exhibits including the Mapplethorpe show.

And here, in San Francisco, the public learned of an FBI investigation of photographer Jock Sturges for allegedly producing "pomographic" works of art.

In this climate of repression, it may seem ironic that one group chose the month of June to celebrate our First Amendment

rights. But June 22 marked the beginning of the San Francisco Bay Area Coalition for Freedom of Expression's Festival, which will continue through July 4. The Coalition, an alliance of more than 300 individuals and arts organizations, has planned two weeks of events, art exhibitions, symposia, performances and lectures "to dramatize the importance of uncompromised freedom of artistic expression".

"We want to turn the debate around," said Susan Miller, Program Director for The Capp Street Project and a member of the Coalition's press committee. "So far, liberals have been put on the defensive. That's just what the right wing wants. Instead, we (the Coalition) want to give out a positive message about the necessity for freedom of expression."

According to Miller, the right wing has cleverly masked its crusade to limit our First Amendment rights by focusing the debate on issues of obscenity. Those who oppose limitations on freedom of speech have often played into the right wing's hands by arguing that the photographs of Sturges or Mapplethorpe, or the lyrics of Two Live Crew, are not "obscene".

But, in the words of Jon Winet, Director



of Southern Exposure Gallery at Theater Artaud and co-founder of the Coalition, "By definition, 'obscene art' is an oxymoron." The Supreme Court has already ruled that 'obscene material' is material that does not have 'artistic merit'.

The Coalition believes that recent attacks on artists should be seen for what they really are: efforts by a group of right-wing

extremists to impose their aesthetic standards on the rest of the country. The attack is on diversity, not obscenity, and the public should respond by celebrating that diversity and our freedom to express it.

The list of events for the Festival for Freedom of Expression reflect this diversity: there are exhibits on AIDS, on heterosexual and homosexual erotica, on issues of

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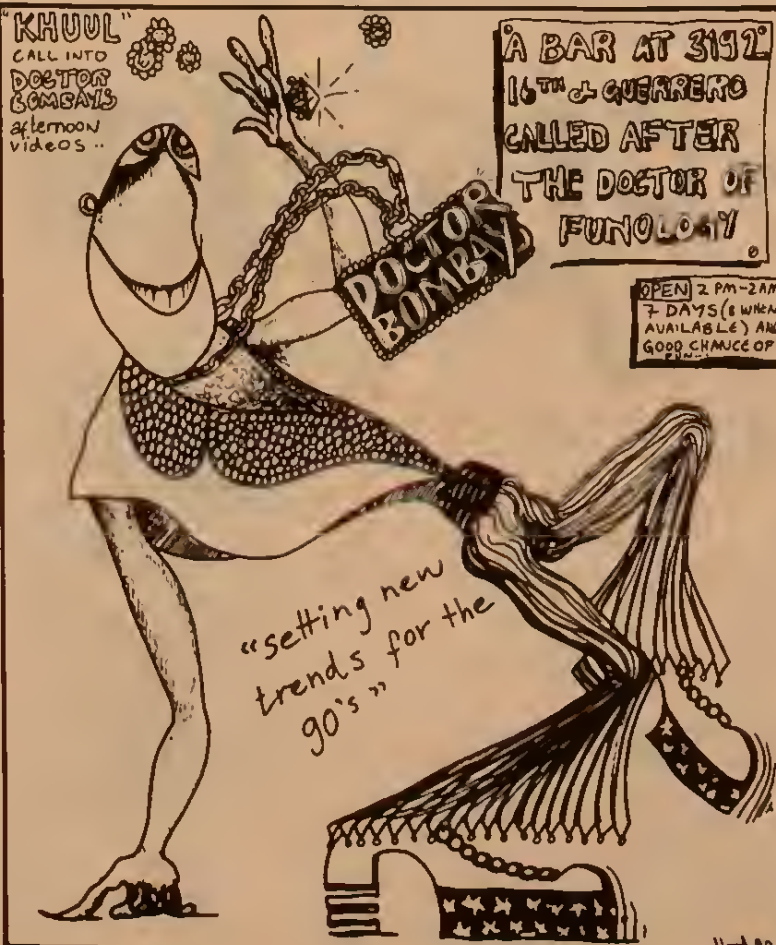
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gender, race and cultural identity, as well as several shows about censorship and the importance of NEA funding. To dramatize the crisis in freedom of expression, the San Francisco Fine Arts Museum is shrouding August Rodin's statue, "The Thinker" every day from noon to 1 PM at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor through July 4.

On June 22, members of the Coalition and the press watched as The Thinker was shrouded for the first time. Then, members of the Coalition stood before the "censored" statue to discuss their goals.

Tom Demaria, the Executive Director of Frameline, which organizes the San Francisco Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, pointed out that the suppression of homophobic art like that of Robert Mapplethorpe is, in fact, thinly-disguised homophobia. Enrique Chagoya, Artistic Director of Galeria de la Raza, said that those who attack artistic expression are the same people who would ignore the AIDS epidemic, limit gay rights and the rights of women to reproductive choice and who support an American policy of "cultural genocide in Central America and around the world."

Amelia Mesa Baines of the San Francisco Arts Commission addressed the issue of cultural diversity. She characterized the suppression of art as a policy of "banning, silencing, excluding and jailing masquerading as the American way" and said, "We cannot allow the few to dictate to the many... We will never, never be culturally silenced."

Cultural diversity is particularly important in an area like the Mission where so many different groups coexist. Mission arts organizations like the Capp Street Project, Intersection for the Arts, Southern Exposure Gallery, Footworks Dance Studio, Galeria de la Raza, the Roxie Cinema, Artist Television Access and the Mission Cultural Center are all members of the Coalition who see recent attacks on sexual expression as a first step towards a broader cultural repression which could affect our neighborhood.

But while it took a moment of crisis for these groups to have come together, Jon Winet sees the Coalition as a way of fostering interaction between the various Mission organizations. The battle for freedom of expression will hopefully be one of many group projects for these institutions.

The San Francisco Bay Area Coalition for Freedom of Expression's immediate goal is to support the continuation of the NEA with no content restriction. Last year, Senator Jesse Helms wrote an amendment to an NEA bill which prohibited the Endowment from funding "obscene" art. Already, Southern Exposure Gallery has come under attack for an exhibit last October called Modern Primitives, which documented contemporary body-altering practices including tattooing, piercing and scarification. Southern California Congressman Dana Rohrabacher labeled the show "obscene" and declared that the gallery was illegally funded by the NEA. With content restrictions like the Helms Amendment, such attacks are almost certain to continue in San Francisco and around the country.

The Coalition is also concerned with issues beyond NEA funding. It has supported Jock Sturges and Joe Semien who processed the Sturges photographs currently under FBI investigation, and who is currently facing several criminal charges.

The Coalition organized a letter writing campaign to the City District Attorney in early June to defend the artists and is now "following the lead" of Sturges and Semien in helping to wage their battle. In addition, the Coalition hopes to broaden its membership beyond the arts community, and to stand for the protection of all First Amendment rights.

Anyone is welcome to join the Coalition. Galleries around the Mission provide information and sample letters to send to Congress members. There is also an NEA Survival Kit available at the galleries, and schedules for the Festival for Freedom of Expression. So get out there and fight for your rights!

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- by Kirsten Voris

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Would you be surprised to learn that the former president of Guatemala, who has referred to his National Liberation Movement as "the party of violence" and is the "godfather" of Central American death squads was a contributor to the first Reagan campaign and a guest at his inauguration?

Not if you've read your Friendly Dictator Trading Cards!

Writers Dennis Bernstein and Laura Sydel have, together with well known illustrator Bill Sienkiewicz, created 36 pocket sized histories of U.S. government involvement in the installation and maintenance of dictatorships in other countries, complete with art ranging from hilarious to disturbing.

After a short conversation with writer Dennis Bernstein, it is apparent that we should be disturbed. As a freelance writer, Bernstein's articles have appeared in publications ranging from the San Francisco Chronicle to the Village Voice. He recently appeared at Modern Times Books to offer a presentation of the themes contained in the trading cards.

The information in the deck is the result of independent research as well as sources such as America's Watch, Amnesty International and ex-CIA agents. Bernstein, who is also involved in public radio, is the founder of the nationally syndicated show Undercurrents and hosts "Need to Know" on KPFA Tuesdays at 7, two programs dealing with human rights issues.

Dennis Bernstein is full of the desire to share what he calls the "hidden history" of our government. It is this desperate enthusiasm which won him a well deserved Pulitzer Prize nomination for the Iran-Contra story. After he was asked to review a similar deck of cards created around the Contra scandal, Bernstein came up with the idea for the Friendly Dictators series; an extension of his desire to make historical accounts more diverse and available.



"I believe it was done to create a really accessible folk history of what U.S. foreign policy has been for the last 30 years," Bernstein says thoughtfully. "You can read Noam Chomsky for 400 pages or you can read 250 words on a card and go deeper into the histories that interest you."

These cards don't come with stale bubblegum and you only have to buy one pack to get the full set. "I could do a second deck though," Bernstein comments. "There's certainly no shortage of U.S. installed dictators."

The stunningly ironic artwork created by Sienkiewicz, a well known artist among graphic novel fans, as well as the availability of the cards in places such as comic stores, creates an entrance for foreign affairs into lives that might not otherwise be touched by policy news. Now in their second printing, the cards are so popular they have been translated into Swedish.

As a teacher and a journalist, Bernstein can attest to the importance of optional news sources. "There is a professor at the University of Connecticut who is using the cards as an alternative text to teach history of Latin America," he says. "I'm happy these cards are being used in classes. As a teacher, I had to create my own texts. Text books are the most biased conglomerations of U.S. history."

It is hard to get most people to think about the fact that what their children learn in school and what they see on TV and read in the paper is, by



and large, regulated by the small number of corporations' own media outlets. "I was doing a piece on Galileo, the plutonium containing space probe," Bernstein begins. "If this shuttle exploded like the Challenger, you could kiss Florida and Louisiana goodbye. I called up NBC and said 'why aren't you covering this?' and they said 'it doesn't exist, what is this paranoid journalism?'"

Bernstein discovered that General Electric which made 130 million dollars off the Galileo mission, owns NBC.

"There are open-minded editors in the mainstream papers, it isn't a totally losing battle," he qualifies. "The independent press has managed to embarrass the mainstream into covering certain stories."

The Spectre of corporate interest that regulates news coverage is also part of the reason behind the CIA intervention in foreign elections. With the end of the cold war in sight, drugs are becoming the new impetus for U.S. intervention, as was the case in the

recent invasion of Panama at a time when Noriega had stopped working with the CIA and the U.S. was gradually losing power over the canal.

"We have been subverting democracy in the name of democracy," Bernstein says. "When we say freedom, we really mean free-market economy."

Bernstein is already at work on the next set of cards: Drug Wars, a farce of the "War on Drugs" in which the United States is revealed as the cause of the cocaine crisis instead of the solution. Alluding to the role the CIA played in giving political power to the Medellin Cartel in Bolivia, he points out that the war on drugs is an attempt by the government to cover their own tracks.

"If you look in the notebooks (in the Iran Contra scandal) drugs are mentioned all over the place," Bernstein says. "The only time you heard about them in the hearings was when some people stood up in the back of the room and unfurled a banner saying 'what about the drugs?'. They got two years for that."

When we only have to watch the news on one channel to know what will be on the other channels and live in cities where the major papers are owned by the same corporation, we need new information sources. Every well rounded opinion is the product of many sources of knowledge. Although dissenting opinions are harder to find and have fewer adherents, when they are discovered the anger, and then the enlightenment, is overwhelming.

"I feel empowered just making information like this available to whoever wants it," says Bernstein. "No," he adds, "sometimes I don't sleep so well."



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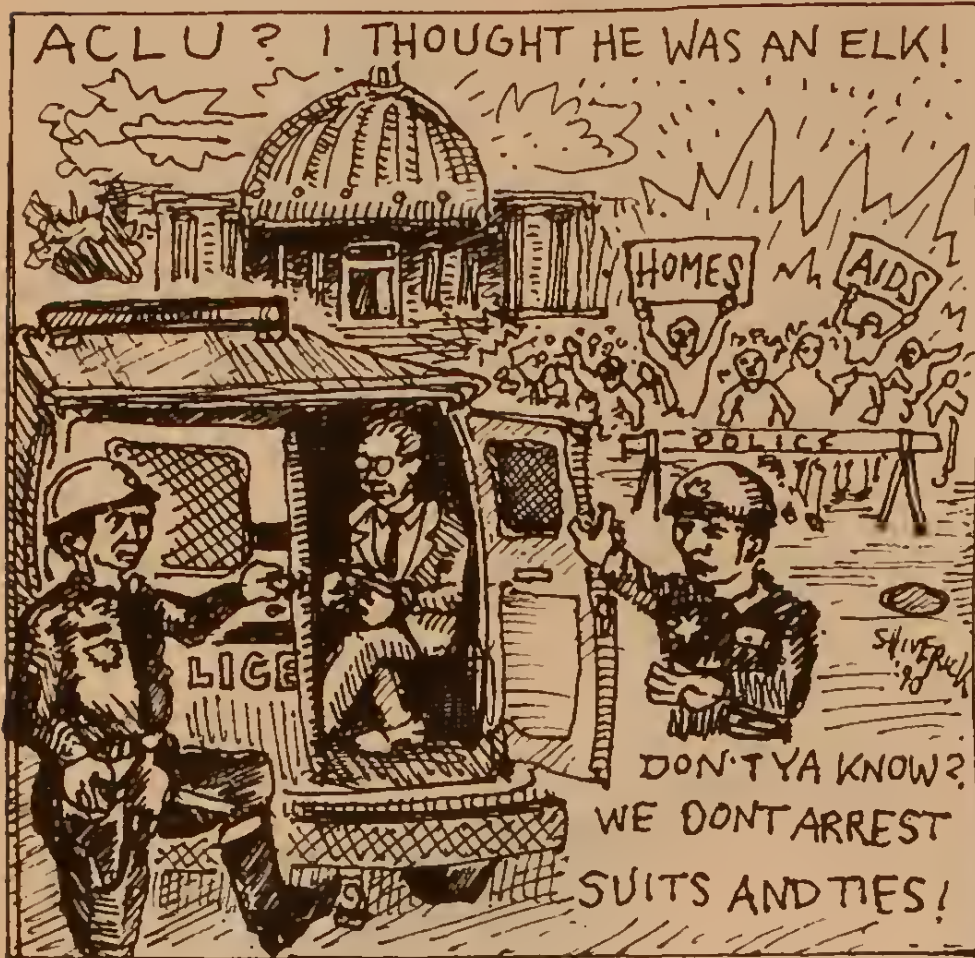


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FIRST AMENDMENT DRESS CODE



It's so edifying working for the North Mission News that I've recently given up my atheistic ways and have begun praying again — that I get fired. *God* only needs you to be good, not ridiculously perfect.

I was trying to dig up a humorous column idea, so I and a NMN mucky-muck met with John Crew, an American Civil Liberties Union lawyer with great anecdotes. Crew told wonderful stories, dating back a few years. I said, "Hey, great material, right?" The NMN said, "Not unless you make it current. It must be timely."

So I'm guessing that when I have a column to write, some form of ineffable immediacy descends on the NMN like the Holy Ghost impregnating the Virgin Mary (this happened approximately —9 months AD). Timeliness is the lifeblood of a monthly paper like the NMN. We cannot afford to print late-breaking items 35 days after the event, instead of our usual 30.

But what happened to Crew (and just how will I be able to make it current!)?

A Rastafarian in La Jolla was constantly stopped by the police to show ID. His lawsuits to stop this harassment won at the Supreme Court. Shortly after, the Chronicle ran photos of police demanding ID from street people at Hallidie Plaza. Crew was going to the area for an IRS inquiry, and stopped by afterwards, carrying his papers (including those showing he worked for the ACLU). Policemen were demanding ID from those looking down and out (like me, on a weekend when I don't shave and wear raggedy-assed old clothes). He took notes. One cop beamed, "Are you from the newspaper!", hoping he might get his picture in the Chronicle. Crew said, "No. Just observing." "Show us your ID!"

Crew said, "There's a Supreme Court decision that states I do not have to show ID if I'm doing nothing to warrant it." Well! Doesn't Constitutional sass like that just set off the police! One cop said, "I don't know that ruling, but why don't we go down to the station and talk about it!" They threw him against a wall, handcuffed him, and started going through his financial papers. "You can't do that without a search warrant, it's unconstitutional," he told them. "Yes we can," one said, "you might have a knife in there." Nothing aberrant about that thought! Every time I compile a portfolio of my finances, I stick in a shiv. That way, if I'm later turning the pages and get a paper cut, I pull out the knife and extract immediate vengeance on the offending page.

Here's my 2nd favorite quote from this article: he said, "Hey, even if I did have a knife, I couldn't use it; I'm handcuffed."

Unfortunately, logic logically won't work with those intent on criminal activities.

Talk about the Chronicle's Mr. Boffo, and people unclear of the concept! The police arrest an ACLU lawyer and challenge him on Constitutional law, and — I love it — admit they are ignorant about a ruling but demand that they would talk about it *after* he's arrested, laws notwithstanding. But folks, it gets even better.

Crew was wearing a sports coat, dress shirt, and tie. When the paddy wagon pulled up, a cop inside yelled to the arresting cops (my favorite quote), "I can't believe you arrested a shirt and tie! We don't arrest *shirts and ties*!" That's what makes San Francisco so different from the rest of the country. Elsewhere, clothes make the man; here, clothes arrest the man.

It gets even *more* better! On the ride to the jail, one cop says to the other, "I can't believe you didn't know the ACLU!" The other responded, "Hey, I thought the ACLU was something like POA [Police Officers Association] or YMCA." (If he had thought — c'mon, it's possible — he might have concluded ACLU stood for Absolutely Constitutional Law Uninitiates.)

It's great to know we hire ACLU-ignorant police for the SFF (S.F.'s Finest) — subcategory UIA (Unskilled in Acronyms) — as DSPICOBLE (Dumb Stupid People In Charge Of Being Law Enforcers).

At the station, the desk sergeant sighed, "Let me get this straight . . . you arrested him for not showing ID." Crew was released *very* shortly after; the ACLU sued and won enough money to pay Crew's salary for a bit. Sometimes that house from Kansas falls on the right person, water gets thrown on a similar sibling, and arms-for-hostage trades get uncovered. The system can work. (When it does, it's usually because the ACLU and other L word groups were there to fight to make it work.)

To return to my initial problem, can I report on current police abuse? Well, just last month, a cop commented on the ACT UP planned protest, "I'm not going to say I will shoot them, but I'm not going to say I won't." Serendipity! That cop was the one who arrested Crew. (So maybe there is a god, seeing I was able to make this current at the very last minute, thanks to this ever eager police officer. Perhaps in a past life, he was one of Christ's arresting officers, thus starting the process to pave the way for mankind's eternal salvation, threats of excommunication, and Operation Rescue.)

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by Don Stevens

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DEFENDING THE WORKING POOR

- by Betsy Randolph

Where does poverty lie, besides exposed on the streets and among the chronically unemployed? During the 1980's, it crept further and further into the households of the working poor, the fastest growing segment of the poverty population.

The strength of the minimum wage has diminished considerably since the 1960's and 70's, when one person working full-time at minimum wage could support a family of three, just above the poverty level. In 1988, the same full-time minimum wage earnings fell \$2,500 short of the poverty level for a family of three. Last year, full-time employment at minimum wage was enough to support one person living alone above the poverty level.

Even though California's minimum wage is 90 cents higher than the U.S. federal wage, it would still take a \$4.53 an hour wage to allow a family of three

Typical cases handled by Instituto Laboral include claims for back wages, Unemployment Insurance claims, physical and sexual harassment on the job, worker's compensation and unfair labor practices. In 1989 Instituto served 685 clients who live and/or work in San Francisco. This year El Instituto averages 70 clients a month, up from 52 a month in 1989. The increase may be due to more documented workers (as a result of the Amnesty), more familiarity with basic rights and more people actually appealing unemployment hearings, instead of just accepting an employer's statement about the reason for termination.

Through April, 1990, Instituto had served 290 clients. Over 1/3 of these were "worker rights counseling", usually the first step. Once the clients know their rights, "we let them make the decision about how involved they'll get," says Office Administrator Viola

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PHOTO BY AMY SNYDER

JOSE MEDINA

(with one person working) to live out of poverty.

El Instituto Laboral, on 16th Street and Capp Streets, serves Hispanic clients who are in the category of the working poor. Instituto is a non-profit advocacy and support organization, whose main goal is to help protect and defend the rights of urban Hispanics in the workplace, as mandated by state and federal laws. It was founded in 1982 by union members who recognized that Latino workers who are not protected/represented by unions do not usually know their rights as workers, their rights and responsibilities as union members, or have an opportunity to play leadership roles.

Instituto's legal advocacy and education program is comprehensive. It also strives to "build a knowledgeable Hispanic constituency" about health and safety on the job; to educate Hispanic youth about their participation in the workforce; and to focus attention on issues confronting Hispanic women in the workforce. The staff of three (with additional interns in the summer) educates through workshops and seminars, leadership training and interviews with English and Spanish language media.

Most other Law/Employment education centers, or "working rights" centers, don't deal with individual cases. Or, they don't handle cases below a certain dollar amount.

Maestas, a founding member of Instituto Laboral.

Understandably, undocumented workers are more reluctant to "make a stink". However, California law states that the employer is required to pay wages to employees once they've been hired, whether they are undocumented or not. Another basic protection that Instituto makes clients aware of is that an employee cannot be fired for filing a wage claim. Unfortunately, many workers don't file claims until after they've been discharged.

Instituto has handled two asbestos cases in the past year and a half. Last February, 12 workers recruited from Dallas, Texas by the Browning Ferris company were told that they would receive \$21 an hour and free housing to do an asbestos removal job for six weeks. The 12 workers and two company reps travelled here from Texas in a van, arriving in the middle of the night at a San Carlos motel, which they had to pay for.

The next morning at the job site, 44 Montgomery, the unlucky dozen were informed that the pay would be \$11 an hour, without housing. Shocked and angry, the workers said they were leaving. But the company would not provide transport back to Texas. The group started walking and, fortuitously, met someone who told them to go to Jose Medina, Executive Director of El Instituto Laboral.

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When Medina walked into the job site to talk to the employer, he "was shocked. All this 'stuff' blew out. There was asbestos on the walls, and people walking around without masks. Meanwhile, they were training a new group of workers." Medina was able to get together a press conference with the workers. The company claimed it was a "misunderstanding", and agreed to provide a van-ride back to Texas. As it turned out, the workers declined the offer and received travel vouchers for the journey through St. Anthony's.

This year, another case involved 37 Latino workers hired to do asbestos removal at 525 Market Street by the L.V.I. (Environmental Services, Inc.) company. The workers noticed discrepancies on their paychecks: they were not being paid for all the hours they'd worked and they weren't given the required breaks. Also, the working conditions were hazardous: the filters on the masks were not appropriate, and decontamination procedures were not being properly followed. One day, the workers were told to go home, and report on another date. When they returned, they found they had been replaced.

"The asbestos industry is largely non-union," notes Medina. Furthermore, Cal-OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Agency) "is not very diligent" about inspecting the asbestos sites. "There is not enough enforcement of the Labor and Health Code in the industry," states Medina.

What union representation there is is fragmented, i.e. divided along lines of steps in the removal process. Often, if the site "changes hands", the new contractor will sign with another union but retain the same workers. As a result workers, like the ones in the L.V.I. case, are confused about which union is really representing them.

Instituto's role was to bring the union reps together with the workers. Also, Instituto convinced the president of L.V.I. to fly in from Los Angeles for a meeting with the concerned parties. The wage issues were resolved, and the company agreed to take back 15-20% of the workers.

An unfortunate trend, Maestas has found, is that a large percentage of Latino workers are abused by Latino establishments, such as restaurants, taquerias, panaderias and the like.

Instituto has worked with other ethnic groups, and reports that this doesn't happen as much as it does among Latinos.

Much controversy has been brewing lately over the issue of day laborers, or "day jobbers". "They hang out on Valencia and Mission (by St. Luke's Hospital) and wait for contractors to pick them up for a day's work," explains Medina. They are primarily Central American refugees, whose numbers have increased due to conditions in their home countries. As many as 60-100 people may be gathered there in a morning or a day, waiting for work.

This raises troublesome issues for the neighborhood merchants, residents, and for St. Luke's. Sanitation, safety, litter and loitering are their concerns, as the day-jobbers have no facilities. Supervisor Jim Gonzales favors a resolution allocating money to set up a "hiring hall" which would provide restroom facilities and registration of workers and employers, for a "match-up" service. A similar hall has been successfully set up in Los Angeles, with city government funding.

Meanwhile, Instituto has been handling wage claims for some of these day-jobbers. Lack of proper documentation of hours and locations worked, sometimes even the name of the employer, can make these cases very difficult to trace.

Medina, who started his involvement in public service in the early 1960's when he worked with youth in the South of Market area, plans to run for supervisor this year. He has already resigned as President of St. Anthony's and as a member of the Police Commission to pursue the seat. His campaign platform rests on the issues of homelessness, public safety and a "holistic approach" to urban development.

Medina would like to see a "revitalization" of the Mission. By that, he does not mean more pawn shops, discount liquor stores or absentee franchises that don't put any money back into the community. He would like to make the Small Business Administration more "responsive", to gain some of the City's Economic Development Block Grant monies for the Mission, and to encourage local banks to make loans to small businesses.

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by Eddy Martinez

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LABOR DISPUTE SIZZLES AT EL OSO

by Tara Kramer

Seven former employees of the Mission's popular El Oso Restaurant are seeking back pay with a \$35,000 Superior Court claim. Their attorney, Ramona Holguin of Centro Legal de la Raza, says that it is part of a pattern of exploitation against indigent workers. Owner Ataulfo Briz claims it is the work of one disgruntled employee looking for revenge.

The seven employees, each with a different circumstance, say they have not been paid for as much as eight months of work and, in one case, are owed up to \$8,000 wage compensation. They worked in less visible kitchen and clean-up positions. Briz said such workers make \$350 a week for full-time work. He did not dispute that money was owed to some claimants, but

La Raza Centro Legal with the California Labor Commission. Pickets and media coverage appeared at the end of the year. Holguin said negotiations had been covered by Jose Medina of Instituto Laboral de la Raza, but had broken down. The case was then taken to the Superior Court, as it involves over \$25,000. Abraham Flores, attorney for Briz, said of plaintiff attorney Mario Salgado "His negotiating ploy is 'write me a check'. He doesn't want to really negotiate and recognize the fact that we have witnesses and have good arguments. Why doesn't he go pick on some real people?"

Holguin contends "There's a disrespect here for long established labor codes. I don't know what his background is, but doing business in the U.S. means you'll



Photo by Fumiori Sato

said that it was withheld "because they were supposed to bring in their Social Security cards".

The workers, speaking through their attorney, said they were never asked how much they were earning, due to certain factors including their need to keep their jobs, intimidation from other workers who were in higher positions and a desire to "not be embroiled in problems with him", as one plaintiff said.

Complicating the case is the fact that up to ten workers, several of whom have since filed suit, lived together for almost a year in a single apartment above the restaurant, also owned by Briz.

Briz said "most of the time they never paid rent, and they were saying the rent should have been zero" because he also used the quarters to store wine. "They got mad because I told them they all had to pay rent. Pretty soon they left, when I told them I was going to collect \$125 a month from each of them." Briz stated that, although he did not always know who was living in the apartment, he allowed them to stay there "because these people had no place to live".

The workers, two of whom spoke to the North Mission News on condition that their names not be used, said they were not told they were to pay rent until they asked for their pay checks. "He asked how long I was living there and I said two months. Ataulfo wrote a bill on a piece of paper charging me \$250 a month. Then he said I don't owe you anything. I asked why are you charging me rent at \$250? There are ten people living there. Am I going to pay for all ten?"

Another worker claimed Briz told them the rent being charged was \$125 or \$150 for each tenant. Not all the tenants worked at the establishment.

Briz said that the rental rate was comparable with the \$1,200 a month rent he charges for his other 1,300 square foot three bedroom two bathroom apartments in the same building. He added that the housing situation "happened over time, and they never paid PG&E. It was \$200 a month, so I had to ask for rent."

The case was first filed in late 1989 by

have respect for U.S. laws. Unions have fought hard for work hours, wages, etc. I don't know why Briz wouldn't want to comply."

A major point of contention concerns El Oso's bookkeeping. Briz claims that, with one exception, none of the claimants worked more than three weeks at his establishment. Of the two claimants interviewed, one stated that he worked at the establishment for a year and a half and a coworker said he worked at the El Oso for three months. "We would come down and go to work."

At the time, no records were kept on workers who were to be paid cash, as opposed to other workers who were on payroll. Flores said the workers who have filed suit "were paid cash."

"We never took the taxes out of the pay," added Briz.

The lawsuit, with its media coverage and occasional pickets, "has really hurt business," according to Flores. El Oso has been the site of fundraisers for local politicians including Art Agnos and Willie Brown, but this may change as the labor dispute continues.

The Centro Legal intends to continue its suit and believes it can win the case. "This kind of employment abuse has been on the increase since the implementation of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986," said Lucrecia Bermudez of Centro Legal. "Many community agencies claim that these abuses are hitting certain sectors severely, especially the Latino community."

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NEIGHBORHOOD BEAT

MISSION VOTE

The Mission District broke with the rest of the City on the June races for Governor and Insurance Commissioner, the initiative to limit supervisors to two terms and provided the margin of victory that elected California's first openly lesbian judge.

In the latter race, attorney Donna Hitchens defeated Deukmejian appointee Jerome Benson by about 900 votes out of nearly 120,000 cast. But in the Mission, Hitchens clobbered Benson 4004 to 1781. Her victory delighted supporters who included not only politicians such as Mayor Agnos, Assemblyman Burton and Supervisors Britt, Walker and Hallinan but also such organizations as the Labor Council, Latino Democratic Club and the Affordable Housing Alliance.

A second lesbian attorney Kay Tsenin, handicapped by her background as a landlord's eviction lawyer, also won in the Mission but finished far behind Hitchens and was outdistanced citywide. Julie Tang defeated Ellen Chaitin for a vacant judgeship, but not by as great a margin as she did citywide, and both will go into a November runoff. And the popular Alex Saldamando won over 70% of the Mission vote on his way to a 60+% citywide triumph over Dominique Olcomendy in another judicial contest.

In other local races, the Mission overwhelmingly supported Richard Hongisto over Wendy Nelder in a race between two incumbent Supervisors to become City Assessor.

While opposing the two term limit passed by the rest of the city, the Mission voted with the majority in rejecting Prop. F for fire staffing and supporting Prop. O, a policy statement in favor of dropping laws against the distribution of needles as an anti-AIDS measure.

POETRY CONTEST

The Mission Branch of the San Francisco Public Library is sponsoring a poetry contest designed to celebrate the Mission District's rich cultural diversity. The contest is open to all residents and friends of the Mission District, from children to adults. Poems may be written in English or Spanish and may be submitted to the Mission Library between now and July 21st.

The winning entries will be published in a poetry anthology entitled *Pluma emplumada* (The Quill Pen). Details of a September poetry reading and publishing party will be announced at a later date.

For each entry, submit two copies of the poem, omitting the poet's name, along with a separate sheet of paper that includes the poet's name, age, address, telephone number and title of poem. Up to three poems may be submitted for consideration.

Entries must be brought to the Mission Branch Library at 3359 24th Street, between Mission and Valencia. For further information about the contest, call 824-2810.

NEW PRESIDENT OF MISSION MERCHANTS

Nina Pellegrini, manager of Coast Savings, was recently elected the new President of the Mission Merchants Association. Alan Zellmer (Bayview Savings) intends to stay an active board member following his two and a half years at the helm of the City's largest neighborhood shopping district organization.

Nina began her career in Mission

district banking in May of 1965 and played a key role in the relocation of Coast Savings to the long-empty corner of 25th and Mission. That this bank building is perhaps the best structure built in the last twenty years on the Mission Miracle Mile is due, in no small part, to Ms. Pellegrini.

Fluent in several languages (reflecting her German, Italian and Argentinian background), Pellegrini is a former President of the South of Army Merchants Association and ex-Treasurer of the Council of District Merchants.

"It's so easy to criticize, but you have to be willing to respect each other if you want to get something done," believes Pellegrini. "Work together, that's the main thing."

She'd like to hear from other Mission businesses who want to work together, and can be reached through Mission Merchants (282-1717) or at Coast Savings (824-3313).

MERCHANTS SLAM DUMPING

ATTENTION: PERSONS RESIDING ALONG 16TH STREET, VALENCIA STREET AND MISSION STREET

Recently, there have been numerous complaints by local merchants and the City's Department of Public Works (CDPW) regarding the illegal dumping of household trash in the merchants' trash bins and the City's receptors. This is against the law and promotes nuisances.

The 16th and Valencia Street Merchants' Association requests your assistance to help keep our sidewalks and streets clean.

Please place your garbage in your own trash receptor. If you need assistance regarding collection of trash, please call Sunset Scavenger at 467-2300 for further information.

Thanks,

Ricardo Noguera - Economic Development Specialist, MEDA, Coordinator of 16th & Valencia Street Merchants' Association

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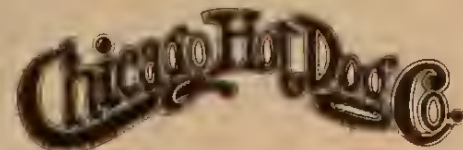


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--KEVIN THOMAS, L.A. TIMES

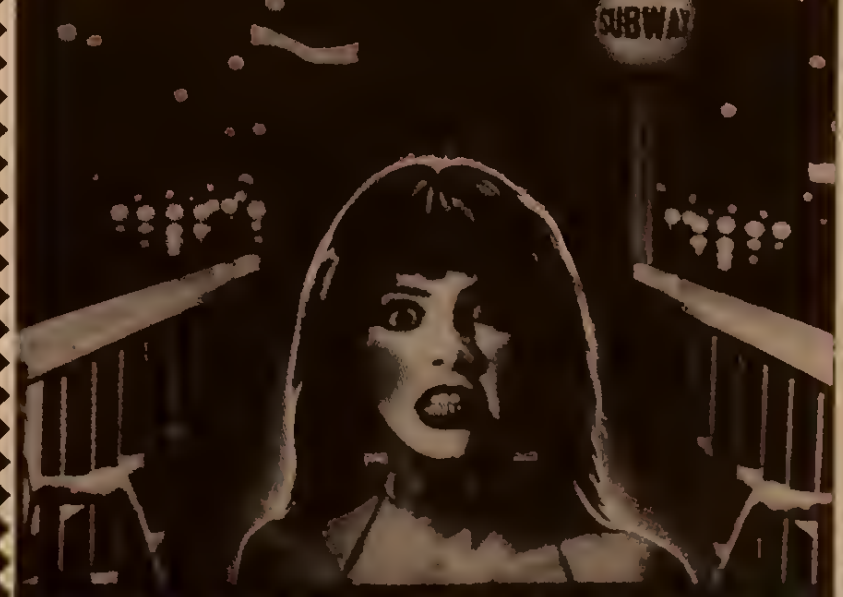
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—BILL MURRAY

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ROBERT EVANS 1943 - 1990



Robert Evans, founder and co-owner of the Roxie Cinema, died Saturday June 9, 1990 of AIDS related pneumonia. His support and exhibition of alternative and independent film made the Roxie a special place in San Francisco and the most cherished spot in the North Mission.

His diverse interests, humor and generosity brought together the extended family that is the Roxie. His discriminating opinions on architecture, music, politics and film did not deter his acceptance of other people's ideas and feelings. Knowing Robert as a friend meant you weren't going to fall through the cracks.

Handwritten notes in the top left corner, including "1943-1990" and "Roxie Cinema".

Handwritten notes in the top right corner, including "Roxie Cinema" and "San Francisco".

Handwritten signature "James" with a date "1990" next to it.

Handwritten signature "John" in the center of the page.

Handwritten notes on the left side, including "John Keads" and "1943-1990".

Handwritten signature "Bill Banning" on the right side.

Handwritten signature "Victoria Kauffman" on the right side.

Handwritten signature "L. Kirk" on the right side.

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Handwritten note "Cynthia of Lane!" on the left side.

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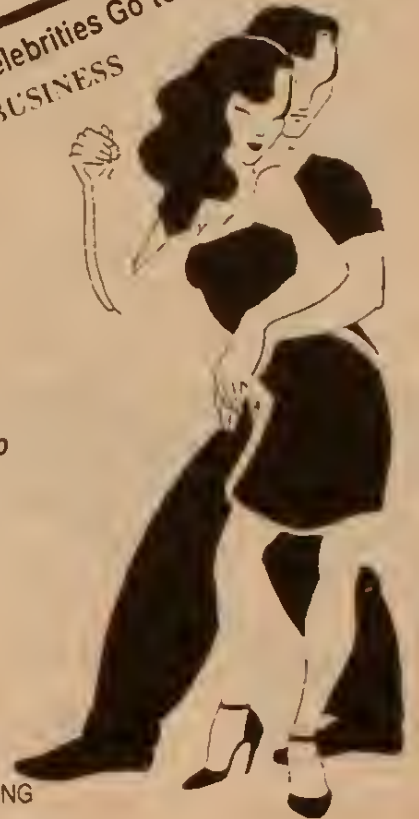
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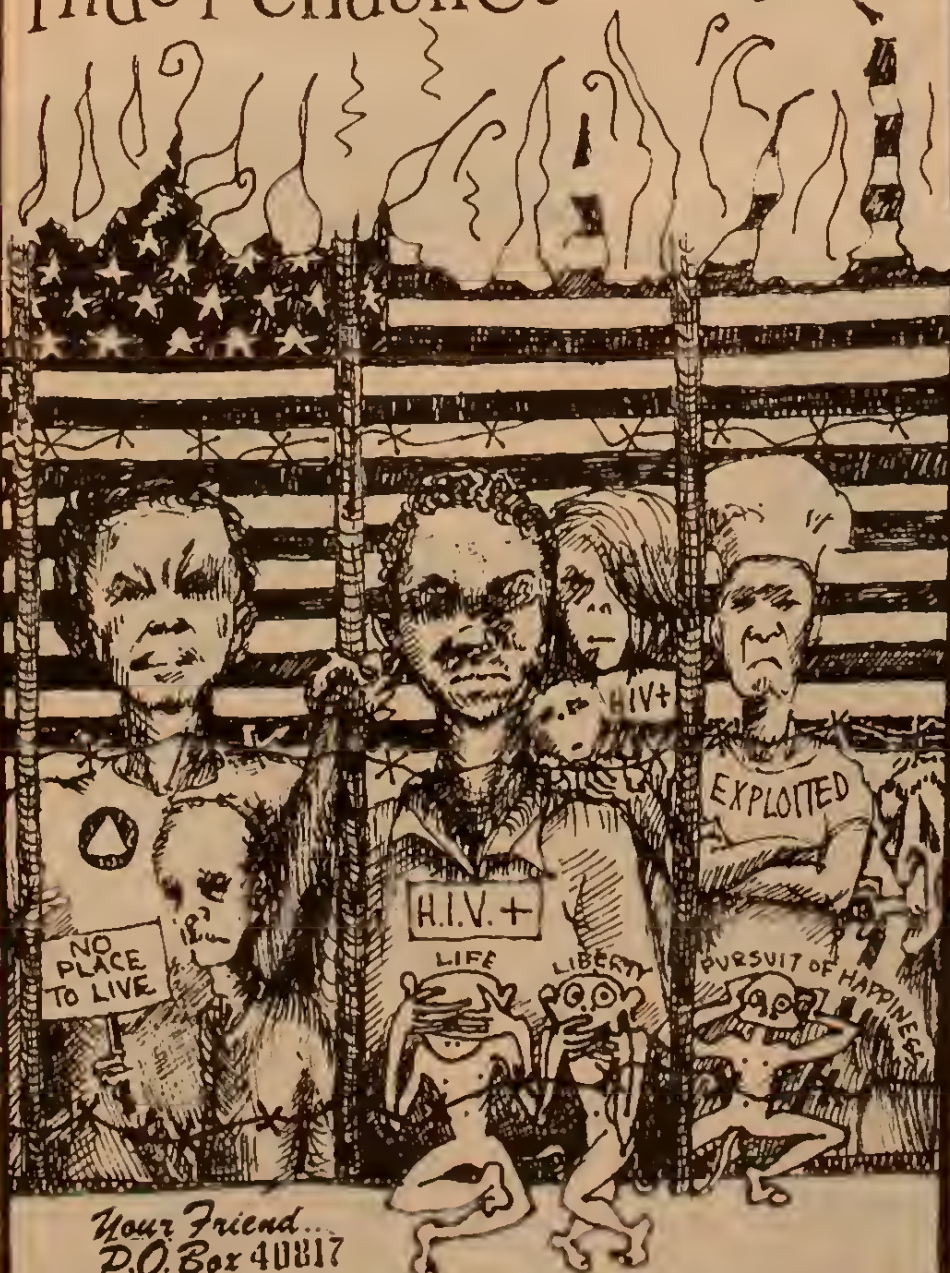
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that you bleed for
her at every step."
— Gary Giddens, *Village Voice*

SERA POSIBLE EL SUR:
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THE VERDICT IS IN!

- by Mayor Art Agnos

Many political pundits believe that today's voter is a slave to 30-second TV spots and the buzzwords and slogans of campaign "spin doctors".

But last month's election shows that, in San Francisco at least, voters are able to sift through the avalanche of hit pieces and slate cards. Most, if not all of the time, they will get to the heart of the issue and do the right thing.

The passage of city Propositions A and B means we will be able to repair earthquake damage to our city's schools and public buildings. Passage of Proposition C means we will be able to lease, rather than

purchase, equipment for such projects at a substantial savings to taxpayers.

Nearly \$5 million was saved by the defeat of Proposition F, which sought to put an unnecessary extra firefighter on every city fire truck.

Above all, voters in San Francisco and throughout California showed their determination to lead the way in dealing with traffic and transportation issues by passing California Propositions 108, 111 and 116.

The infusion of new money generated by these measures will have a far-reaching impact throughout the Bay Area in the years ahead.

Here in the city, we could see funding for new mass transit projects like Geary Boulevard rail service and the Third Street Muni extension, as well as help with existing plans like Muni's F-line Embarcadero trolley and King Street Metro extension.

Regionally, these new funds could be used to improve CalTrain service, extend BART to San Francisco International Airport and build a new high-speed rail line between San Francisco and the burgeoning Sacramento area, using existing railroad right-of-way.

The people of California have made all of this possible by their vote last month. Now it is up to state, regional and local political leaders to work together to make it a reality.

A new reality is also emerging on the eastern edge of the city — a rebuilding and transformation on a scale that hasn't been seen since the construction of the Bay Bridge itself more than 50 years ago.

An agreement has just been announced for the building of Yerba Buena Center near Moscone Convention Center, a project that had been tied up in disagreements for more than a decade.

The heart of this project is Yerba Buena Gardens, \$110 million public park and plaza, which will be entirely paid for by the

project developer through land purchase costs and special fees.

Yerba Buena Gardens will cover two square blocks, bordered by Third and Fourth Streets, Mission and Folsom. It will include an ice skating rink, children's museum, child care facilities, a performing arts hall, art gallery, multiplex cinema, restaurants and shopping, all designed around expanses of park, greenery and gardens.

With the new Museum of Modern Art being built across the street, the whole area will become a vibrant new center for culture and recreation, as well as business.

Just a few blocks away from Yerba Buena, the plan for a whole new neighborhood at Mission Bay is also taking shape after years of conflict and negotiation. You'll be hearing more about this in the months ahead, as we move closer to a public vote on Mission Bay's exemption from Proposition M.

When you also consider the proposed revitalization of the waterfront and the replacement of the Embarcadero Freeway with a new subsurface freeway and open plaza, it all adds up to a great future for this long-neglected part of San Francisco.



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RITUALS ON STAGE + SCREEN IN JULY

- by Claudia Lunstroth

SACRED GAMES: Ritual Warfare in a Maya Village

Produced, written, narrated by
Thor Anderson
The York Theatre, 2789-24th St.
July 7-10th, \$6

In SACRED GAMES, Thor Anderson expertly documents the beliefs, back-breaking work, and celebrating that is the yearly Festival of Games carnival in the Maya village of San Juan Chamula in southern Mexico. He shows the week of exhaustive and costly preparation leading up to the festival and the festival itself, a tribute to the Lord and warfare (and rum). The thoroughness of Anderson's work is obvious from the narration and interviews that cover the complicated history of the celebration. The Chamula people celebrate the 500 year history of invasions in the region and the triumph of the Lord over chaos. They believe that they are the center of the world and that Christ rose as the sun in the sky to end the darkness. The interviews are both informative and beautiful, as we see the faces of a people far removed from our industrialized world and wish we too were in the highlands of Chiapas. Anderson shows footage from 1944 and 1958 documentaries to highlight the fact that the ritual has not changed with time (except for the addition of tin horns and Pepsi bottles).

Anderson focuses on the Pasi ón of the festival, who can be any man in the village who wants to hold a two year term and spend his life savings to have the honor of directing the preparations and the festival. Interviews with the Pasi ón run throughout the film, contrasting his position of respect and power with his daily life as an ice cream seller. We are shown the many arrangements he must oversee, which include the preparation of vast amounts of food and rum. During the festival, he is held responsible for the rain



ANNA DEAVERE SMITH

and is jailed until the sun returns.

Despite leaving some questions unanswered, SACRED GAMES is a great achievement and a beautiful portrait of a people, their games and their faith.

Showing with SACRED GAMES is POPOL VUH: The Creation Myth of the Maya, an animated film retelling the creation myth of the ancient Maya. The opening night show on July 7th benefits Spanish language versions of the films. There will be a reception at 6:30 at Galeria de la Raza. Maya delicacies will be served. The reception & film cost \$10.

SOLO JOURNEYS

Directed by Suzanne Bennett
Eureka Theatre, 2730-16th St., 558-9898
through July 15, \$13, \$15, & \$17

SOLO JOURNEYS is a series of two tour de force one-person performances. Kent Whipple wrote and performs "Doug Beale - Atlanta: 1983", the story of a man from a small town in the deep south

who is gay and eventually dies of AIDS. Anna Deavere Smith's "From the Outside Looking In: On the Road in San Francisco, 1990", commissioned by Eureka Theatre Company, presents San Franciscans at their best and worst.

In "Doug Beale - Atlanta: 1983", Kent Whipple portrays not only the flamboyant Doug, but also his hypocritical cousin, his sympathetic brother, his devout and ignorant father, a homosexual friend, and Aunt Sully, the old black woman who knew and loved him best of all. Whipple developed this piece in response to a real story he witnessed and has achieved a riveting documentary on life as a homosexual in the deep, evangelical south. Whipple's portrayals of the six characters are excellent; the transitions are smooth and seem effortless. His accents are believable, the

characters are distinct and often too credible for comfort. His depiction of Aunt Sully is so superb I could see the old black woman speaking to God, telling Him she would only go to Heaven if Doug would be there with her. The well-crafted story, as it unfolds through the different characters' monologues, draws the audience into Doug Beale's life and the abuse he suffered from the family and friends.

Anna Deavere Smith presents San Francisco through her renditions of approximately thirty of the many people she interviewed in her search to find San Francisco. She claims not to have changed a word or gesture obtained from the interviews for her performances that range from Angela Davis, Tim Redmond and Ruth Asawa to a Salvadoran refugee, Herb Caen, and Roger Craig. Her portrayals are well-crafted and not mean - she lets each character sink or swim on its merits. She has chosen a variety of people who represent the many facets of San Francisco and presents vignettes that make a complete city. As Herb Caen said, San Francisco has enough to keep one happy and depressed. Smith gives the views of the philanthropic socialite and contrasts it with the those of activists for the poor and oppressed. North Mission News readers will be interested in Herbert Gold's comparison of the North Beach of the Sixties with today's cultural hub at 16th and Valencia. Smith perhaps could leave out a few of the authentic hems and haws, and perhaps one or two of the portrayals, but hers is a tour de force show that is compelling, intelligent, and profound.

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Qi: VITAL ENERGY

- by Lisa Berkelhammer.

Chronic fatigue, low energy and exhaustion are among the most common symptoms for which people seek medical help. Chinese Medicine offers interesting theoretical explanations regarding vital energy, or "Qi".

The body has two principal sources of Qi, which are translated as "Ancestral Qi" and "Acquired Qi". It is the crucial balance and interplay between the two which determines the quality of our energy on a daily and on a long term basis.

Ancestral Qi may be roughly compared to D.N.A. We inherit certain genetic tendencies from our parents which cannot be altered. Some people inherit strong and ample Ancestral Qi; some inherit less. The amount of Ancestral Qi is finite, and through the processes of birth, growth, reproduction and maturation, we use up this store of basic energy. The rate at which we deplete Ancestral Qi is governed to a large extent by the quality and quantity of the Acquired Qi.

Acquired Qi is the energy which we derive from food, exercise, air, water and sleep. Ideally, our daily energy expenditure should be fueled by Acquired Qi, which we replenish regularly. If we fail to nurture Acquired Qi, the system falls back on Ancestral Qi for energy.

The Ancestral Qi may be thought of as an emergency back-up system; long term over-use causes premature aging, immune suppression and exhaustion, or "burn out". Since Ancestral Qi is finite in amount, it is critically important to avoid using it for daily energy needs.

Other factors which drain

Ancestral Qi are the use of chemicals such as caffeine, alcohol, nicotine and pharmaceutical drugs, untreated severe illness, multiple pregnancies and stress.

Chinese Medicine can effectively treat fatigue syndromes with regular acupuncture and herb therapy which gradually restore depleted energy. Nutrition plays an important role in recovery and cannot be over emphasized. Miso soup is strengthening and restorative and may be eaten daily as a part of a primarily grain and vegetable based diet.

MISO - SHIITAKE SOUP

4 cups water
2 carrots, sliced
1 onion, sliced
2-3 shiitake mushrooms, sliced
2 inch piece wakame sea vegetable
2 TBS light miso
2 scallions, sliced

Bring water to boil. Add vegetables, simmer about 20 minutes. In a bowl, dissolve miso in some broth. Serve soup in individual bowls adding miso to taste and garnishing with scallions. If dried shiitake are used, they should be pre-soaked for 10 minutes. Miso should never be boiled, as the heat destroys its valuable enzymes; always add at the end of cooking. You may improvise on this recipe by adding other seasonal vegetables and some tofu cubes. Try miso soup in the morning instead of coffee!

Lisa Berkelhammer is a Board Certified Acupuncturist/Herbalist and Nutrition Consultant. She is in private practice in San Francisco.

QUAN YIN



BIG CHANGES AT QUAN YIN

by Misha Cohen

QUAN YIN



Quan Yin Healing Arts Center, a non-profit educational and research organization dedicated to the dissemination of information on Chinese Medicine and other natural therapies, is currently undergoing great changes.

The mother clinic, Quan Yin Acupuncture and Herb Center, closed due to financial difficulties last April. The Healing Arts Center immediately began to meet the needs of those who would most likely suffer from the loss of care; poor people with HIV/AIDS/ARC.

A low-cost, high-quality HIV acupuncture clinic was begun within two weeks upon the mother clinic's closure. Acupuncturists were trained and hired, staff trained and hired, and volunteers recruited and trained. The clinic has become quite successful, seeing approximately 50 people per week. As the word gets out, new shifts are staffed as quickly as possible. Volunteers and monetary donations are currently needed to expand to meet the

growing needs.

The Quan Yin Herbal Treatment Programs for HIV+ persons are continuing strongly, with new twelve-week programs beginning every six weeks. Please see previous NMN for more information.

The Comprehensive Programs for HIV+ persons are also continuing with an added dimension, a Wellness Program which is open to any person who wants to be more educated about one's own healing process. This is a ten-week series of hands-on workshops and lectures which anyone may attend. Classrooms continue to be rented through the Healing Arts Center, with such groups as STEPS, SHARE and Achalan's Yoga renting space.

A Fertility Program for men and women trying to conceive is also an active part of Quan Yin.

More programs are planned for the future. To participate, to volunteer or to make donations, please call (415) 861-4964.

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L F C: DEALING WITH ALCOHOL ABUSE

— by Manuel (Quique) Dávila

The Latino Family Alcoholism Counseling Center, now at 820 Valencia has for the past 13 years offered alcoholism counseling services. After contending with a recent institutional crisis, this organization has managed to survive and now strives to forge a vision of its role in the community.

Dealing with the problems created and exacerbated by alcohol and drug abuse is not easy. Of all substances -- legal or illegal -- used by people to alter their behavior and mood, it is alcohol the drug that has been with us the longest, and the one most widely used, studied and accepted throughout the world. Contrary to other drugs, alcohol production is simple, and as such, more difficult to criminalize. From there that it has turned into a lucrative business at both local and

international level. In California alone, for example, the wine industry generates billions of dollars in revenues. I have heard that one of every fifty workers in the United States' economy, works in some kind of activity related to the alcohol industry.

It would seem that the legalization of alcohol in the United States, for example, has not resolved the serious threat of alcohol use and abuse.

Because it is legal and so important to the economy, alcohol is readily available and accessible to practically anyone. Many of those who develop

problems with alcohol, began consuming the substance at an early age, inasmuch as it is available in family reunions, outings, or at the liquor store next to the school. It would seem that the legalization of alcohol in the United States, for example, has not resolved the serious threat of alcohol use and abuse.

In the United States, alcohol is related to 50% of all deaths resulting from car accidents; 25,000 people every year! A large number of hospital admissions are due to ailments related to alcohol consumption, and a great number of violent crimes committed in the United States, occur while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Losses to the overall economy run in the billions of dollars as a result of absenteeism, accidents, low productivity, and by the need to establish services and programs to cope with the problem. The widespread presence of Alcoholics Anonymous

throughout the world illustrates the seriousness of the problem. It has also been implied, that the product has the subtle effect of quieting down social discontent.

Alcohol bears some characteristics that make it unique. Alcohol works craftily. Liver cirrhosis can take up to fifteen years to surface. Moreover, social experience and the host of norms and expectations surrounding alcohol make it seem harmless. Since it is so deeply rooted into the cultural and social fabric, there are many factors that can affect and trigger alcohol abuse; stress, ageing, accidents, environment, social group and even personality. Alcohol, the drug, enhances the warmth and spirit of a delightful evening with friends and relatives, but it can also kill.



In our community, a growing concern about alcohol and drugs is evident. In the Mission, especially, we experience many manifestations of alcohol and drug-related problems. The more one ponders the situation, the humbler one gets. After considering the 16,000 tons of aspirin consumed by United States every year, we realize what a big headache that is.

The reality of community based agencies responsible for the rehabilitation of affected individuals, families, and workplaces is one of constant struggle to understand the concomitant problems, and to survive and grow in the face of tight budgets and market-like competition. The needs are many and the resources are scarce.

Manuel E. Dávila is the Executive Director of the Latino Family Alcoholism Counseling Center. Drawing by Manolo Dávila Rodríguez, age 9.

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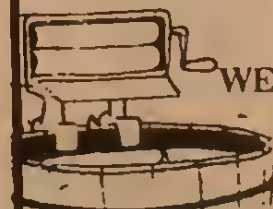
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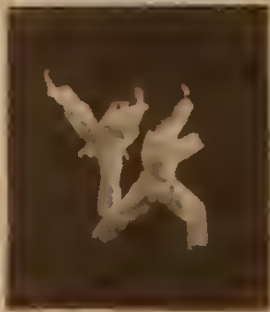
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July 1990 Calendar

TUESDAY, JULY 3, 1990

Recuento de Afinidades (Inventory of Affinities), a collective show of Lesbian and Gay erotic images, by Mexican artists. Through July 8. Galeria Museo Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission Street. 821-4425.

What Time It Is: Six Decades of Neon Clocks, a gallery exhibition of neon clocks. Through August 31. Neon Neon, 270 7th Street. 9-5pm. 552-4163.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4, 1990

Exhibitions by Nurman Schwab, Dean MacDonald and Jim Edmiston, paintings, constructions and installations. Through July 26. Southern Exposure Gallery, 401 Alabama Street. 12-5 pm. 863-2141.

THURSDAY, JULY 5, 1990

JP Collins, and Ray Beldner, exhibition. Alligator Gallery, 924 Valencia. 12-5pm, Thursday-Sunday. Through July 29. 695-0845.

Wha...i, Whai, A Lung Long Time Ago, Bay Area theatre debut by *Thick Description*. Ch'oc In-hun's reworking of an ancient Korean fable about the birth of a divine being into a poor rural family. Thursdays -Sundays, 8:30pm. 156A Russ Street. \$9. 863-7058.

Public Hearing, The City Planning Commission. Will cover the Neighborhood Conservation Rezoning Study. Height and depth will be discussed. 558-6422.

FRIDAY, JULY 6, 1990

Dark Circus, a new play by Bindlestiff Productions, about a circus company oppressed by unseen proprietors. \$6.50, 11pm., Fridays and Saturdays, through July 14. The Eureka Theatre, 2730 16th Street. 558-9898.

Inside Fireworks, a collection of multimedia skits, with dance, fashion, sculpture, and performance. FREE. 6:00pm champagne reception. The Open Studio, 3666 26th Street. Also Saturday and Sunday. 255-1276.

Homenage a Ralph Maradiaga, exhibiting the art, film and activism of the Galeria co-founder. Reception. 7-9pm, Galeria de la Raza, 2857 24th Street. 550-7581.

Two Writers Read Their Work. Salvadoran exile poet Jorge Argueta and Barbara Jamison will read from their current and in-progress work. 8pm, Modern Times, 968 Valencia. FREE. 282-9246.

SATURDAY, JULY 7, 1990

Encuentro del Canto Popular performs *Conjunto Los Compas*, part of New College's *Evening of Salsa for the New Song*. Extraordinary Latin folk music. A benefit dance. \$10/door. New College Auditorium, 777 Valencia. 252-5957.

Socialist Upheaval and the U.S. Left. Major conference about how what is happening in the Socialist world affects the U.S. Left. Barbara Ehrenreich, Kendra Alexander, Manning Marable to speak. 9:30am U.C. Berkeley, Dwinelle Hall. 843-5877.

MONDAY, JULY 9

Australia Night Benefit, bring shrimp for the barbie! Bay Area Theatresports puts the "jock" in jocularity. \$10. 8pm, The New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th Street.

W.I.S.E. Program Cycle begins. Will help low and moderate income women start and expand their own businesses. Start Smart course today, and Marketing course July 12. All fees on sliding scale. Call 624-3351.

The War on Drugs Joins the War on Women, a lecture addressing the latest tactic of blaming drug-addicted women for "fetal abuse." Presented by Radical Women, 7:30pm, 523A Valencia. 864-1278.

Open Gay/Lesbian Reading. Hosted by Stephanie Henderson, Lesbian and Gay writers of all disciplines and levels encouraged to share their work. 7:30pm, Modern Times, 968 Valencia. 282-9246.

Campfire Singalong. Sing favorite campfire songs with Mission Children's librarians. For ages. 2pm, Mission Library, 3359 24th Street. 824-2810.

Elly Bulkin Reads from Enter Password: Recovery, her work about political struggle, child abuse, and transforming the self through language. 7:30pm, Old Wives Tales, 1009 Valencia. 821-4675.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 11

Carne Vale, presented by Elbows Akimbo. A performance combining cryptic dialogue, crazy aerobatics, gypsy ballads, breathy psychological movement, ritual sacrifice, Middle Eastern ululation, and a live band. 8:30pm, and 2pm, Thursdays through Saturdays, Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia. \$8-10. Through July 29. 626-3311.

Mother Jones, in person. David Beers, senior editor of *Mother Jones* will speak on why Congress cannot give up the military industrial complex. FREE. 7:30pm, Modern Times, 968 Valencia. 282-9246.

THURSDAY, JULY 12

Public Hearing, The City Planning Commission. Parking and procedures will be discussed. Public permitted to testify. Call 558-6422 for details.

Diane diPrima Reads from her book, *Pieces of a Song*, about a woman's life lived in the articulation of her art. 7:30pm, Old Wives Tales, 1009 Valencia. 821-4675.

FRIDAY, JULY 13

Photography Exhibition by Gary Borgstedt, Marta Peluso, and Corinne Whitaker. Artists make social statements through photography and video. Subjects

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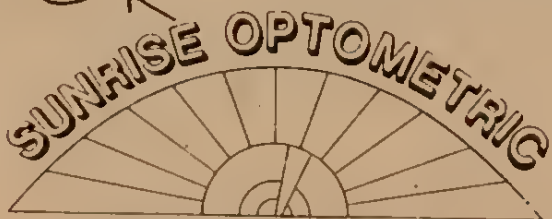
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include Down's Syndrome, madness, AIDS, and commodification of culture. Reception 6-9pm, Eye Gallery, 1151 Mission Street. Through August 18. 431-6911.

Unspoken Voices, a benefit for the International Women's Exchange. Poetry, Music and Performance. 7:30pm, Modern Times, 968 Valencia. \$4-7. 282-9246.

SATURDAY, JULY 14

Summer Enchantment, a magical tale with some of the best improvisors this side of Narnia. Presented by Bay Area Theatresports. 11pm, The Loft in the New Performance Gallery, 5153 17th Street. \$6. 824-8220.

SUNDAY, JULY 15

Pro-Choice Comic Book Party. Members of the comic book community reply to the Supreme Court. Presented by editor Trina Robbins. FREE. Modern Times, 968 Valencia. 7:30pm, 282-9246.

MONDAY, JULY 16

Varsity Match, a comedy sports improvisation by Bay Area Theatresports. \$7-10. 8pm, The New Performance Gallery. 3153 17th Street. 824-8220.

TUESDAY, JULY 17

Women in Psychotherapy. Joan Hamerman Robbins discusses her new book. 7:30pm, Modern Times, 968 Valencia. FREE. 282-9246.

THURSDAY, JULY 19

Yonder Comes Day, an autobiographical solo performance work about AIDS in the Black community, by storyteller/actress Marijo. Los Angeles Poverty Department also performs. Presented by Circuit Network. New Performance Gallery, \$10-20, 8pm. Also July 20, 21, 27, 28. 346-9963.

Chicano Issues: A Forum for Artists & the Community. 7pm, Galeria de la Raza, 2857 24th Street. 550-7581.

Je Suis (un readymade), an interactive touchscreen television performance about free speech, produced by Ben Britton. 5-8pm, through July 22. Artists Television Access, 992 Valencia Street. 695-8732.

La Casa Day--Beyond Survival, an effort to patronize establishments committed to empowering battered women. For details, call La Casa de las Madres, 777-1808, between 9am and 5pm.

Public Hearing, The City Planning Commission. Focus on general review of zoning and conservation. Only 1 hour and 45 minutes long. For exact time and place, call 558-6422.

FRIDAY, JULY 20

Gwen Avery in Concert. Special solo performance of blues, gospel and her unique *this is m-u-s-i-c* sound. \$10, Noc Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 895-6221.

Rosa Montoya Bailes Flamencos perform world acclaimed flamenco dance and music. \$12-25. 8pm, Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness. 762-BASS and 931-7374.

SATURDAY, JULY 21

Poetry Contest DEADLINE, sponsored by the San Francisco Public Library. Open to poets aged 4-104. Winner to be published in *Pluma Emplumada poetry Anthology*. Spanish and English entries welcome. Mission Branch Library, 3359 24th Street. 824-2810.

Dorothy Healey discusses her new book, *Dorothy Healey: A Life in The Communist Party*. Reception and bookparty. 6:30pm, Modern Times, 968 Valencia. 282-9246.

Public Hearing, The City Planning Commission. Demolition and density to be aired out. Open to the public. Call 558-6422 for details.

Spanish Preschool Storytime. Stories, rhymes and songs *en espanol*. Ages 3-5. 2pm, Mission Library, 3359 24th Street. 824-2810.

SUNDAY, JULY 22

New Paintings and Performance, by Karine Baczynski, David DeAndrade and Tym Simpson. Despite their best efforts, this is still sponsored in part by grants from the NEA.

7pm, Artists Television Access, 992 Valencia. Through July 29. 824-3890.

Buddism and Ecology, Celebrate the publication of *Dharma Gaia*, with editor Alan Hunt Badiner, in a discussion of the experiential wisdom and its lessons for the entire ecology movement. FREE. 7:30pm, Modern Times, 968 Valencia. 282-9246.

MONDAY, JULY 23

Junior Varsity Match, presented by Bay Area Theatresports. \$7. 8pm, The New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th Street. 824-8220.

TUESDAY, JULY 24

Snakes Alive! Meet a real live snake and turtle and make your own bookmark from the shedded skin of a live snake. Ages 6-up. 2pm, Mission Library, 3359 24th Street. 824-2810.

Brainstorming Session: Children's Night for Supervisorial Candidates. Discuss how to compare for yourself how the candidates feel about children getting their fair share. Sponsored by Coleman Advocates. Noon, 2601 Mission. 641-4362.

Mother Tongue Feminist Theatre Collective will perform *Workscript*. Everyone welcome. \$3-5. Old Wives Tales, 1004 Valencia. 621-4675.

MONDAY, JULY 30

Team Night, presented by Bay Area Theatresports. Two teams and two coaches equal an evening of hilarious competition. 8pm, \$7-10. The New Performance Gallery. 3153 17th Street. 824-8220.

New and long-established businesses, all confront an expanding and increasingly complex business world. As the economy swings and sways, wages, fringe benefits, equipment and office space become critical financial issues. More businesses are beginning to realize the obvious advantages of hiring independent office support services to handle some or all of their office needs.

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- by Robert Cole, and
Lowell Williams

ALMANAC: Every year, on or about July 4th, Planet Earth reaches her aphelion -- the farthest position away from the Sun in her orbit. How interesting that we should celebrate Independence Day during this event. Astrology promotes total independence and absolute self-government. This year, imagine a world without politicians and governments, a world without corporations and bureaucracies. Such independence is required if our species is to survive. A total eclipse of the Sun will occur over the Mid East on the 21st; the next day the Sun will leave Cancer and enter Leo. The Full Moon occurs on the 7th and the New Moon occurs on the 21st.

ARIES (MAR 21-APR 19): Get ready for a complete change-over in your housing situation. Old housemates will move away and a whole new crowd will invade your once-cherished privacy. You are obviously in a position to control and dominate, but you won't have the energy to manipulate. Stay in your room and make the newcomers in your life respect your desires for peace and quiet. Family life can be exhausting.

TAURUS (APR 20-MAY 20): Several interesting travel opportunities present themselves in your otherwise boring schedule this month. You'll find yourself rationalising away deep inner conflicts about wasting the ecology with your aimless wandering. Business is down, social life is down and success seems like it's light years away. Your salvation is your lover, whose fairy-like attitude shatters illusions of depression and makes you laugh stupidly.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUN 20): Big bucks start rolling into your life as this month begins. Your talent for making money will finally overcome your self-inflicted sense of worthlessness and poverty. Of all the signs, yours falls easiest into thoughts of bankruptcy because it is the ultimate form of rebellion against the class system. Your wheeling and dealing this month, however, is bound to push you into upper class territory. You are worth it.

CANCER (JUN 21-JUL 22): Your birthday month is peaceful and quiet as you retreat from the hysteria and confusion of the real world. Slip into a

comfortable delusion. Find a nice little hide-away in your fantasy world. Despite others' concerns about your social and mental stability, tune in, turn on and drop out. Oh, and be careful of gaining too much weight this month; a few pounds will add charm but many pounds will do harm.

LEO (JUL 23-AUG 22): Your megalomania reaches a peak of domination this month; you find yourself hovering over the weak and ignorant as if the world will be lost if they do not obey your every word. While you experience the awesome awareness of your role as world savior, consider the reality that everyone else has just as much responsibility and power as you do. It's too easy to think that they are stupid when they're just being accommodating.

VIRGO (AUG 23-SEP 22): A whole new beginning occurs in your life. Visions of the future filled with healthiness, abundance, love and intimacy crowd your mind with excitement. You will be invited to several very important social events; you should attend with your companion and make a point of shaking everyone's hand. Past accomplishments suggest future opportunities. It's perfectly acceptable to let your imagination go completely out of control, even in public. Your wishes are like seeds cast into the garden of community.

LIBRA (SEP 23-OCT 22): Goodness, goodness, aren't you the most popular thing on the whole planet! Your aura is glowing with accomplishment and fulfillment. Your pockets are overflowing with money, and your business phone won't stop ringing. This is your annual harvest time, when all your dreams and goals from the last year will manifest for real. Your causes are won, your affairs are successful, and your deepest desires are realised. While reaping your harvest this year, remember there won't be another one until next July. Save.

SCORPIO (OCT 23-NOV 22): This month finally brings an overall perspective to the intensity of transformation which has happened in recent months. The practical matters all fit perfectly in place, but only now are you realising the full extent of the spiritual and psychological transition. For the full effect, you might consider introducing a religious ritual into your daily routine or spend time studying

another culture's mythology about rebirth. Bring meaning into the mundane.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 23-DEC 21): Your sexual roles suddenly appear very tight... tight and smooth. Being the daughter/son, wife/husband, mother/father for the others in your life requires a little hard ass this month. But don't let the traditional expectations drive you into situations you can't get out of. You can play sexual games but you aren't required to make love. There's one and only one pretty person who can satisfy your physical lust. You know who.

CAPRICORN (DEC 22-JAN 19): As summer gets fully underway you are inspired to consider major promises in your relationship. After months and months of waiting, hoping, analyzing and wishing, now is the perfect time to pop the big question: "Will you marry me?" Marriage in the New Age is a social formality designed to bring all your friends into the circle of your love for each other. Celebrate your ceremony with a big bash and lots of

very important people. Congratulations!

AQUARIUS (JAN 20-FEB 18): It's time to get into tip-top shape. The weather's wonderful. You have lots of extra energy. And your schedule still has some obvious gaps which could be filled in with rigorous exercise routines. Watch the diet and be sure to take an afternoon nap every day. Business will start to pick up by month's end, and you want to be prepared to handle the extra work load till the end of the year. Health is your true wealth.

PISCES (FEB 19-MAR 20): Some people say you are easy to influence. Others are misled by your generous accomodation. And the small-minded have no idea of how much control you have over the entire situation. Tempt, tease and manipulate this month. Play the competitive game with serious intensity. If push comes to shove, pull all your old favorite strings to get what you want. But, by all means, don't ever show weakness or misgiving. Deep inside, everyone knows what you're really up to.

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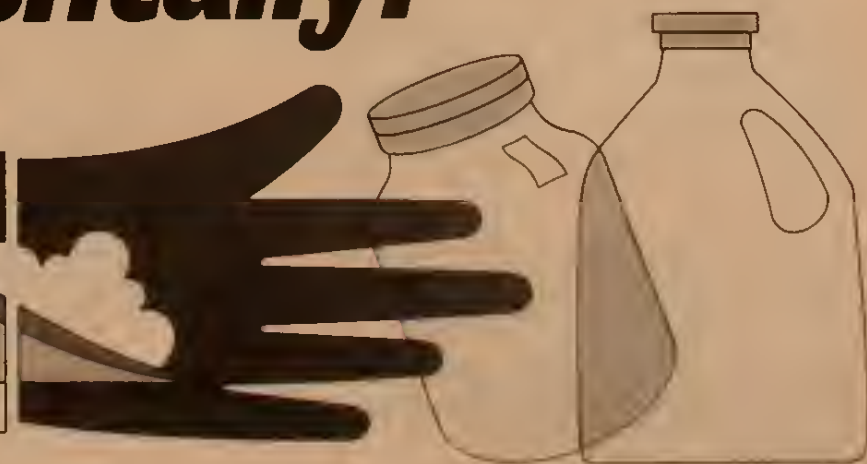
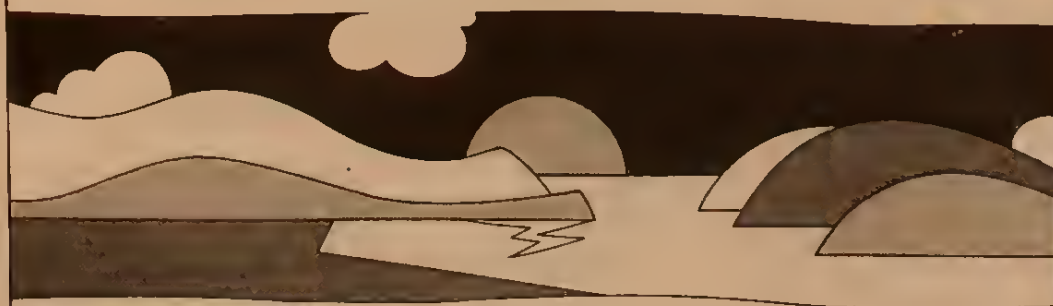
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BORED ON THE FOURTH OF JULY



By Frank Deadbeat

PART ONE

As you might guess, the fourth of July is not my favorite holiday. It's like Cousin Mike Keriotis, the Kent State kid, says in a song lyric: "Beer-drinkers and firecrackers, that's all the fourth of July means to me now..."

I can stand the beer-drinking, but the firecrackers give me a headache -- even if they are an ironic foreshadowing of gunfire in the streets. The noisy excitement of the American tribe gives me a headache, even if I am (I suppose) a part of that tribe.

"Whatsamatta, Deadbeat, you don't love this country?"

Sure I love this country. I love its mountains, rivers, trees, fields, beaches, skies. I even love its people -- in the abstract, like, when they don't bug me with their damned firecrackers.

I don't love the destruction and/or poisoning of all the aforementioned by greedy corporations who don't give a damn about this country, its land or its people; who care not a whit even for the generation of their own grandchildren, but only for the next fiscal quarter. I also don't love the world-wide export of this spiritual sterility and moral bankruptcy under the guise of "freedom" (though communism, the monocrporate "alternative", was even worse).

At a time when one corporation is about to raze some of the last remaining ancient forests in California to make up, on paper, what it lost on junk bonds; when 70% of the resources allocated to the "War On Drugs" are being used not to fight crack and halt the destruction of the black community, but rather to implement a policy of "zero tolerance" towards marijuana and the tenuously lingering spirit of the 60's (an this by a largely alcoholic, emotionally dysfunctional culture); when freedom means that artists and musicians must live in fear of arrest for "obscenity" while fundamentalist pinheads are allowed to harass women outside the offices of Planned Parenthood; when even the Democrats, supposedly the "party of the people", can do nothing but howl for more prisons, more executions -- at a time like this, what issue do I see the Washingtonian pundits courting? What vital legislation do I hear debated on the television news?

An amendment to outlaw

flag-burning! Flag-burning! The setting fire to a piece of cloth, a symbol.

Whenever people start getting too excited about a symbol, it's a sure sign that there is deep anxiety, doubt -- even cynicism, on the part of leaders -- about what is (or is not) behind that symbol.

When people wage holy wars in the name of their god, it means that they have lost sight of that god. When Americans wrap themselves in their flag, it means that they have stopped appealing to the highest principles and motives of the nation, and have sunk to the level of mere tribalism. (Tribalism, it has been cynically reasoned, gets votes -- as do most appeals to the lowest denominators of common intelligence, such as fear and prejudice.)

PART TWO

"As long as there are still people who believe that nationalism, militarism and tribalism are good things, there will be no peace in the world."

Such was my meditation last fourth of July, as I sat alone in my anarchic apartment, in the lotus position, with the rancid, cheesy stench of unwashed sweatsocks wafting up to me from both feet like the olfactory effulgence of twin incense bowls. Such was the thought I tried to hold steady in my mind, against the incessant crepitations of innumerable firecrackers being lit by small boys and hooligans outside.

Very soon, my head began to throb, until it became impossible to shut out the sounds of several parties -- several back-yard barbecues -- going on near my building. Soon, the smell of roasting weenies and burgers invaded my cloister, waking various and sundry appetites...

I went into the kitchen, found a few kernels of uncooked rice on the stove, ate those, looked in the pantry and disturbed two rats who were vigorously coupling. I wandered back into my bedroom, feeling morose, wondering what to do next.

I couldn't call any of my "rad" friends -- they were both out of town. (One was attending the funeral of the other, in fact.) I couldn't wander nonchalantly into the neighbors' yard and crash their barbecue -- not after last year, when (I am told) I burned their flag and shaved an anarchist symbol on the side of their dog.

I sighed, settled back on the futon, lit the wrong end of my last cigarette. Damn! The firecrackers were popping off outside like a guerrilla gun battle, to a counterpoint of beery voices talking, laughing, even singing. Damn them, I thought, as someone played a Bruce Springsteen tape on a Japanese ghetto-blasters. Damn the whole mindless bloody herd of them.

Suddenly the phone rang. I ran to answer it.

"Yo Deadbeat! Mr. Rebel! What's up?"

It was an old "non-rad" friend I'd forgotten about, whom I hadn't heard from in months.

"We're havin' a barbecue and watchin' the game at my house. Wanna come?"

He didn't have to ask me twice.

Before I got to the party, I stopped at an Iranian liquor store and bought a 12-pack of beer, to bring me honor and prestige among the tribe -- Budweiser, of course, in the traditional red, white and blue cans.

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